Forest Service

Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest Salt Lake Ranger District 6944 S 3000 E Salt Lake City, UT 84121 801-733-2660

File Code: 1950

Date: Feb. 15, 2017

Dear Interested Party,

The Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest is requesting your comments on a proposal to create a right-of-way for the construction of utilities near the Town of Alta on National Forest System lands (both under the end of SR 210 and Albion Basin Road (National Forest System Route (NFSR) 028), and to widen the existing Albion Basin road above the end of the SR 210 pavement for several hundred feet. The proposal is intended to improve access to the proposed parking structure serving the Patsey Marley Hill Property and Subdivision as well as all Albion Basin Cabin owners. In addition, the Forest Service is holding an open house on March 7, 2017 between 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at Our Lady of the Snows in Alta, UT to provide information regarding the proposal and to provide another opportunity to comment. This request for scoping comments provides information on the proposal and describes how you can provide your feedback.

Proposed Action

The project proposal contains two main components that require the use of Federal Lands managed by the US Forest Service: 1) a water system to serve the Patsey Marley Hill Subdivision, and 2) access to the subdivision's proposed parking facility. The water system requires a utility right-of-way under the pavement of the upper end of SR 210, beginning near the applicant's approved point of diversion (the portal of the Town of Alta's Bay City Mine Tunnel) and the first 400 feet of the existing Albion Basin Road on Forest Service lands before it enters the Patsey Marley Hill Subdivision property (National Forest System Route (NFSR) 028). The water line would also provide emergency water service and fire protection to the existing dwellings in the Grizzly Gulch area of the Town of Alta, utilizing water rights currently owned by the applicant.

The proposed access to the subdivision includes a plan to widen the existing road above the end of the existing pavement for 710 feet to the entrances of the proposed Patsey Marley Hill Subdivision parking facility. The proponent's proposed access for the existing road section beginning at the end of the existing pavement includes a 24-foot paved road section, a 2.5 foot paved shallow drainage swale on the upside of the road, and a 10-foot wide gravel shoulder section for a total width of 36.5 feet. A second access to the parking facility would be served by a paved 90-foot diameter cul-de-sac, which can also be used as an emergency vehicle turnaround in the summer and winter. The following outlines seasonal usage:

Summer Service and Usage – no change in current service and usage



Winter Service and Usage – A 10-foot wide plowed pavement section from the end of the
existing pavement to the proposed parking facility entrance would be maintained. This
single 10-foot plowed lane would be required to accommodate vehicular access both to
and from the parking facility. An 80-foot long inter-visible turnout would be constructed
at the mid-point of the access road to accommodate two-way traffic. Safety features,
including traffic lights at each parking entrance/exit would be included.

A 24-foot wide groomed snow surface for on-snow-vehicle (OSV)/skier/other non-motorized traffic lane from the end of the existing pavement to the parking facility would be maintained on the downhill side of the road. The parking facility would be available to cabin owners for automobile parking and OSVs for a fee. If necessary, a 12-foot wide by up to 200-foot long parking area for OSVs could be provided just beyond the existing Forest Service gate for cabin owners who do not wish to use the parking facility.

Purpose and Need

The purpose and need of the project is for the US Forest Service to respond to the applicant's request and determine whether or not to provide utility infrastructure and improved access to an approved ten lot subdivision on Patsey Marley Hill, which would be located on privately-owned land.

How you can comment

The 30-day scoping period for the proposal begins with publication of a legal notice in the Salt Lake Tribune. This is the second public comment period – comments received during the first period have been recorded. Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, and electronic comments must be received or postmarked by the end of the 30-day period. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period, with the day after publication serving as day one. Persons who wish to comment should not rely on dates or information provided by any other source. In cases where no identifiable name is attached to a comment, a verification of identity will be required for objection eligibility. If using an electronic message, a scanned signature is one way to provide verification.

Electronic comments must be submitted in rich text format (.rtf) or Word (.doc or .docx) or .pdf to comments-intermtn-wasatch-cache-saltlake@fs.fed.us. Written comments must be submitted to: Salt Lake District Ranger, 6944 South 3000 East, Salt Lake City, UT 84121 or by fax at (801) 733-2684. The office business hours for persons submitting hand-delivered comments are: 8 am to 4:30pm Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Oral comments must be provided at the address above during normal business hours via telephone (801) 733-2660 or in person.

Please include the following information with your comments: (1) name, address, and contact telephone number or email; (2) the name of the project on which you are commenting; and (3) specific written comments related to the project.

Individuals and organizations who wish to be eligible to object must meet the requirements of 36 CFR 218 subparts A and B. Persons who provide comments are responsible for submitting them by the close of the scoping period. Only persons who submitted timely and specific written comments on the project during this scoping period, or any subsequent comment period, will be eligible to file an objection under 36CFR 218.

For further information about the project, including documents and maps, or about the objection process, contact Charles Rosier at crosier@fs.fed.us or 801-999-2159.

Sincerely,

Rebecca A. Hotze

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District Ranger

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